

REMARKS

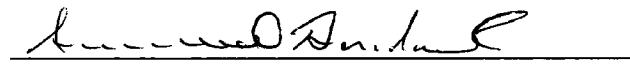
Applicants have canceled claims 10 and 11. Since the remaining claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 are allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 is appreciated. The Applicants submits the following comments concerning the Examiner's reasons for allowance cited in the Office action. It is the subject matter of each claim as a whole that is patentable, not any particular feature recited in the claim(s). The Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowance given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make the claims allowable and does not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/31/01



Samuel Borodach
Reg. No. 38,388

Fish & Richardson P.C.
Citigroup Center
52nd Floor
153 East 53rd Street
New York, New York 10022-4611
Telephone: (212) 765-5070
Facsimile: (212) 258-2291